

to rules and make the case for this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation to remove the Agricultural Adjustment Act requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order on pears.

I want to thank my friend and colleague from Oregon, Mr. WALDEN, for his hard work on behalf of the NW pear industry.

My Congressional district produces 44 percent of the nation's pears, and Washington State is the top pear producing state in the nation. The pear growers I represent and their fellow pear growers throughout the Pacific Northwest are working hard to meet the challenges of foreign competition and changing consumer tastes, and industry marketing organizations are a vital part of this effort. However, Northwest pear growers are operating under an unnecessarily complicated arrangement involving two federal marketing orders and two state commodity commissions. The industry would like to streamline its grade standards and marketing efforts by moving to a single federal marketing order.

Moving from four organizations doing the same job to one seems like common sense to me, but there is a problem. Current federal statute requires that any marketing order that covers pears for processing must have equal representation from producers and processors on its governing board. Keep in mind that it is producers, not processors, that pay the assessments and are subject to the marketing orders' quality standards. For this reason a requirement that processors have equal representation is unreasonable and is a barrier to the industry's plan to consolidate its organizations.

This legislation will simply remove the requirement that the number of producer and processor representatives be equal. If passed, our bill would allow the Northwest pear industry to establish a single federal marketing order that does not give disproportionate influence to one segment of the industry.

This legislation is supported by the Pacific Northwest pear industry, and the processors themselves do not oppose the removal of this provision.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time on the legislation before us, and, on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2984.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2984.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF HOUSE FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 261) expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the efforts of organizations such as Second Harvest to provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encouraging all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local antihunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 261

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for millions of low-income Americans and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

Whereas recent census data show that almost 13,000,000 children in the United States live in families experiencing hunger or food insecurity;

Whereas the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban America, touching nearly every American community;

Whereas although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, certain groups, including the working poor, the elderly, homeless people, children, migrant workers, and Native Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

Whereas the Federal Government, through Federal food assistance programs such as the Federal Food Stamp Program, child nutrition programs, and food donation programs, provides essential nutrition support to millions of low-income people;

Whereas there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting hungry and food insecure people;

Whereas more than 50,000 local community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 1,000,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people;

Whereas a diverse group of organizations, including America's Second Harvest, the United States Conference of Mayors, and other organizations have documented substantial increases in requests for emergency food assistance over the past year; and

Whereas all Americans can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by donating food and money, by volunteering, and by supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports the efforts of organizations

such as Second Harvest to provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encourages all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local antihunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which recognizes the efforts of communities and faith-based groups such as Second Harvest to recover surplus food from restaurants and other facilities and donate it to local soup kitchens.

These efforts play an important role in combating hunger, which afflicts far too many Americans, particularly children.

The resolution is sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and has 43 cosponsors. As we approach the holiday season, it is important to acknowledge these voluntary efforts. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again stand in support of the ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), as he testifies before the Committee on Rules on behalf of his amendment that would allow disaster assistance similar to that passed by the Senate to be considered by the House tomorrow.

I think it is very important for people to know that this bill is of critical importance to the district the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) has represented so well for so long. They have had catastrophic losses from drought in 2003. And while there are some discussions percolating about a disaster bill for 2004, we know there was no disaster response for the losses suffered by farmers in 2003.

The Senate saw fit to take care of that, and in their bill, 2003 is provided for. That amendment by the Senate sits in conference committee on the homeland security bill right now. That is why I was so pleased to see the Stenholm proposal come forward today, the proposal that would allow a farmer to choose whether the 2003 or 2004 losses would be covered under the bill, and in all other respects mirrors the \$3 billion package that the Senate advanced.

I am pleased that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is up in the Committee on Rules right now, and I am also pleased on his behalf to then read the statement that he would have been prepared to give on behalf of this legislation: "Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H. Res. 261. This resolution